



**Message from Cleland Sneddon, Chief Executive
Wednesday 25 March 2020**

A Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you all for your outstanding work over the last few weeks. Those who are well and have been able to contribute to our response to the Coronavirus - my sincere thanks to you as you are now carrying out an essential role as Category 1 responders.

As we see messages for the general public to stay at home as much as possible and observe the public health advice, council staff along with emergency responders in the NHS, police, fire and rescue, ambulance services, the third sector and many others continue to deliver critical public services to our most vulnerable.

It was great to see the response from our schools and early years establishments this week: delivering essential childcare so that our doctors and nurses can save lives in hospitals and health settings; helping our social care staff protect and look after our vulnerable population; ensuring that our most vulnerable children are protected; and enabling the police, ambulance, fire and rescue and other emergency services to continue to keep us safe. You are all doing an amazing job – just think about the number of lives our doctors and nurses will save as a result of your commitment and dedication.

Our emergency response is not just in education and care. Across the council critical services are being delivered from the support in our call centre through to keeping our roads safe, lifting residual waste, cleaning our buildings, providing free school meals, emergency housing repairs, ensuring council staff are paid on time and so many, many more. I acknowledge how flexible you have all been and your willingness to take on unfamiliar tasks.

Our colleagues in South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture have also been a big part of this initial response and offer us additional capacity. Please don't be offended if I have not listed the contribution you personally make – I want to recognise everyone involved in this response.

For those staff who are self-isolating, please keep yourselves safe and well. For those who have been unwell, we hope you get better soon.

Further to the Prime Minister and First Minister's announcements this week, our role as Category 1 responders is even more critical. I want to thank you for stepping up – I am so proud of each and every one of you. Let's continue to protect our communities and help the NHS save lives.

Cleland

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